**The Outsiders Chapter 3-4 Vocabulary**

1. **sophisticated**

having worldly knowledge and refinement

You greasers have a different set of values. You’re more emotional. We’re *sophisticated*—cool to the point of not feeling anything.

"Sophisticated" is used here by the author to mean the opposite of "emotional."

2. **aloofness**

a disposition to be distant and unsympathetic in manner

Socs were always behind a wall of *aloofness*, careful not to let their real selves show through.

3. **stagger**

walk as if unable to control one's movements

Five Socs were coming straight at us, and from the way they were *staggering* I figured they were reeling pickled.

4. **smoldering**

showing scarcely suppressed anger

Johnnycake made a kind of gasp and his eyes were *smoldering*.

5. **clutch**

hold firmly, usually with one's hands

He was *clutching* his switchblade, and it was dark to the hilt.

6. **apprehensive**

in fear or dread of possible evil or harm

He was pretty well crocked, which made me *apprehensive*.

7. **defiance**

a hostile challenge

Yet in his hard face there was character, pride, and a savage *defiance* of the world.

8. **gingerly**

with extreme care or delicacy

“The first stop’ll be Windrixville,” Johnny said, laying the gun down *gingerly*.

9. **premonition**

a feeling of evil to come

But this church gave me a kind of creepy feeling. What do you call it? *Premonition*?

10. **elite**

a group or class of persons enjoying superior status

“And,” Two-Bit added grimly, “a few other of the socially *elite* checkered-shirt set.”